



# Sensemaking in Peacebuilding Evaluation

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**faith. action. results.**

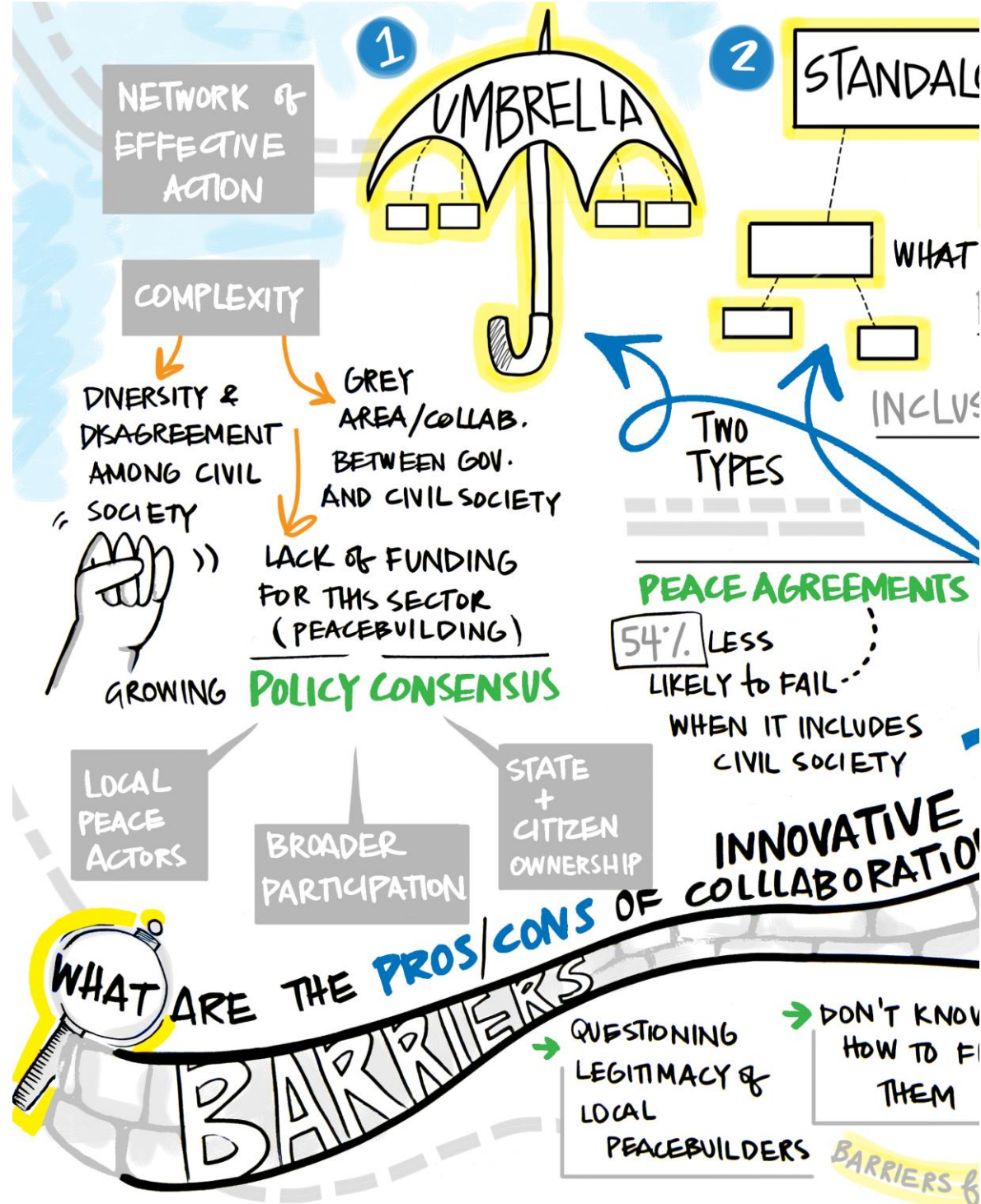
# Presentation Outline

- Peacebuilding, complexity and evaluation methods
- Short introduction to SenseMaker (Video)
- Baseline assessment: A3B for Peace Project in the Philippines
- Final evaluation: Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) Project in Ecuador
- Final reflections on the SenseMaker method



Peacebuilding initiatives constantly deal with complexity

Complexity requires probing, making sense and adapting



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**Stories, at scale,  
illuminate insights  
and impact amid  
complexity**

**Inclusion of many  
voices allows to  
combine  
qualitative and  
quantitative data**



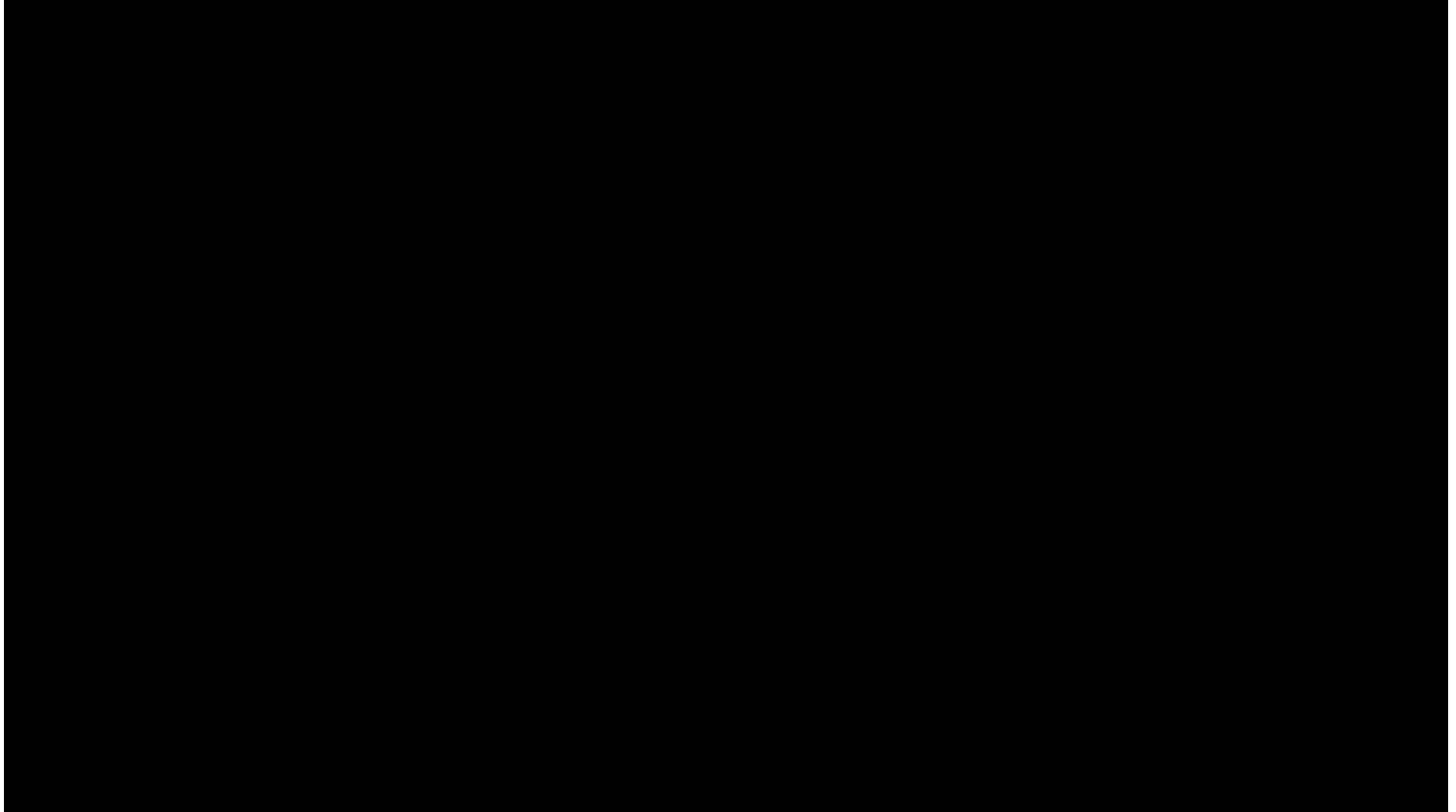


**Respondents self-signification adds layers of information**

**Peacebuilding evaluation methods matter for program participants**



# The SenseMaker Method





1

Uses a narrative as  
the entry point

The starting point is a  
narrative that the  
respondent chooses to  
share about a specific  
and real experience,  
moment or event, which  
reveals what is  
important to the person  
sharing the narrative



# 2

## Facilitates self-interpretation of experiences

**Follow-up questions called “signifier questions” facilitate further reflection and interpretation of the experience, reducing the influence of the evaluator or researcher and providing additional layers of information about the experience shared**





# Binding, Bonding and Bridging (A3B) for Peace

3-year project (2016 – 2019) funded by USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation

## Baseline evaluation



# Stories connect to the heart and mind in powerful ways

*Think of a significant peace or conflict situation that happened in the last 6 months in your community and that made you feel particularly hopeful or worried. Please describe what happened in that situation and how it was dealt with.*

*I was at home yesterday when I heard shooting outside. There were two separate shots, and it was around 11 at night. I was shocked when it happened because someone has died again. Every week there is such an incident and so I am quite used to it. I don't know what the cause of the shooting was. The next day I found out from my neighbor that the one who died was just renting here, and just got involved in a conflict between drug addicts. She was mistaken for an asset of the police so she was killed. That is how it is in our community; when there is a new face, he/she is always looked at as a police asset. No one reported this to the police and no one came to the aid of the victim. People here are used to keeping things to themselves because we are afraid that we would get involved and be killed.*

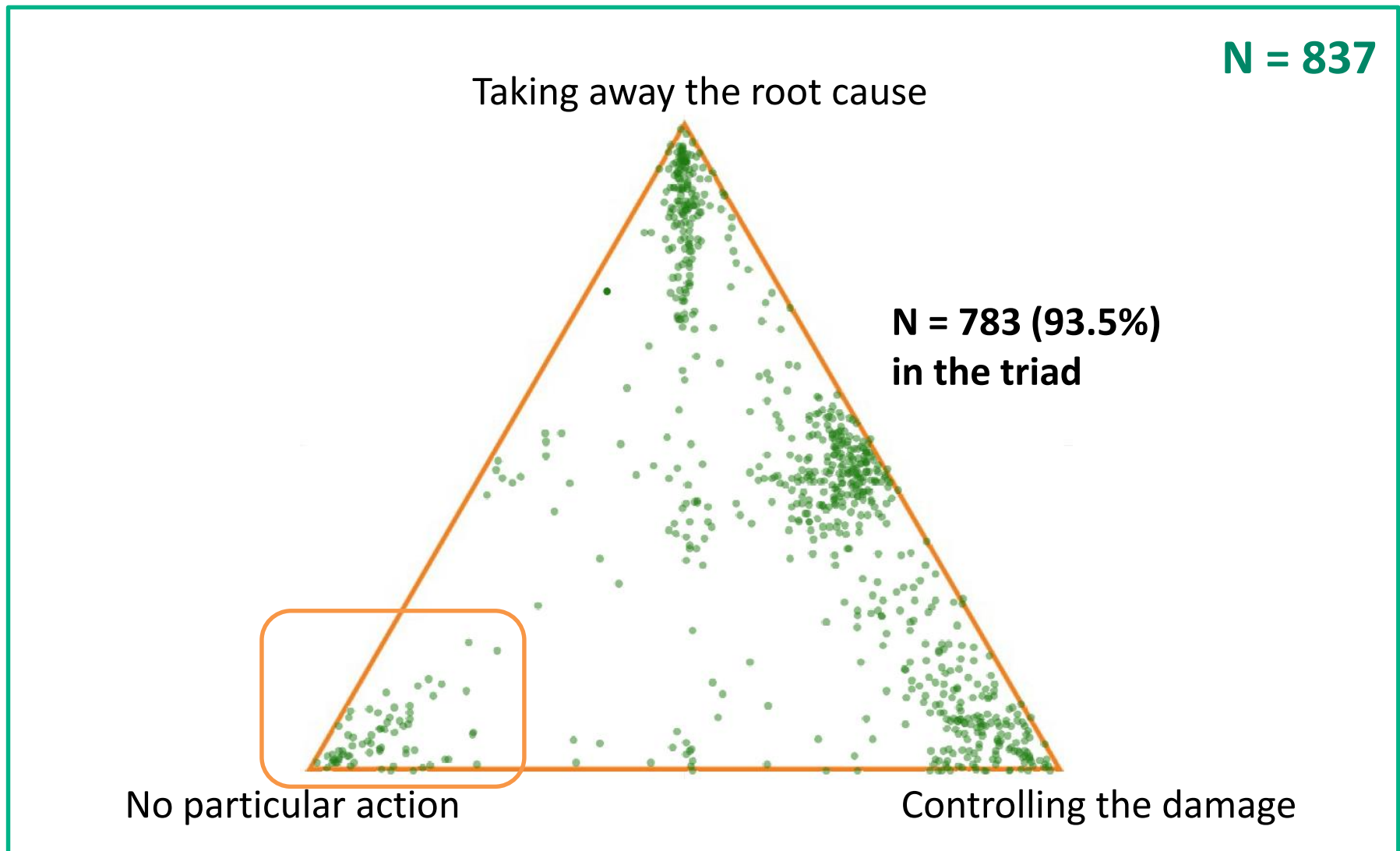
*(Female youth leader)*



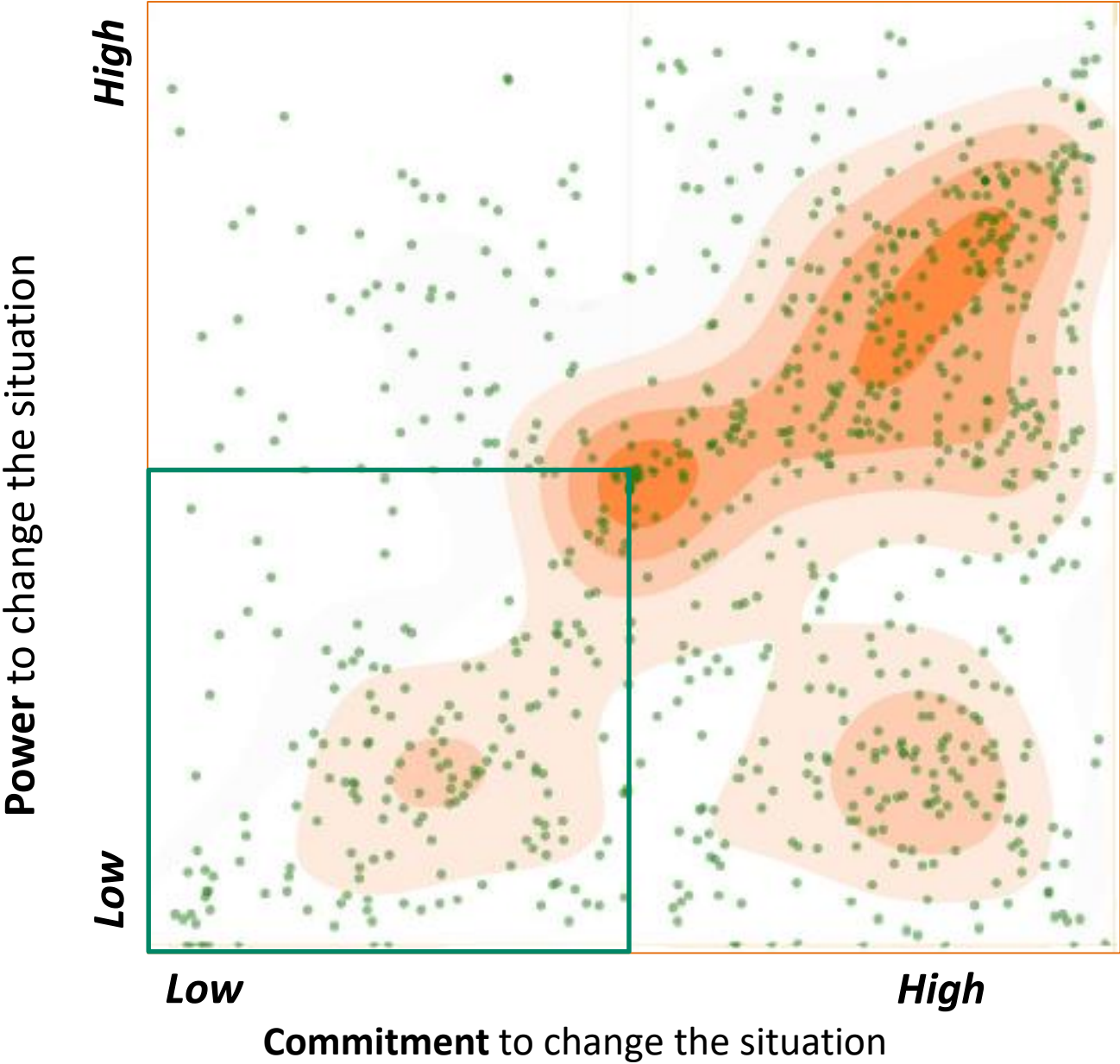


# Respondents deliberate over and nuance their responses

In the context of your story, people's response to the situation was...



In your story, the following actor has the ...



**Community  
Power and  
Commitment to  
Change the  
Situation**

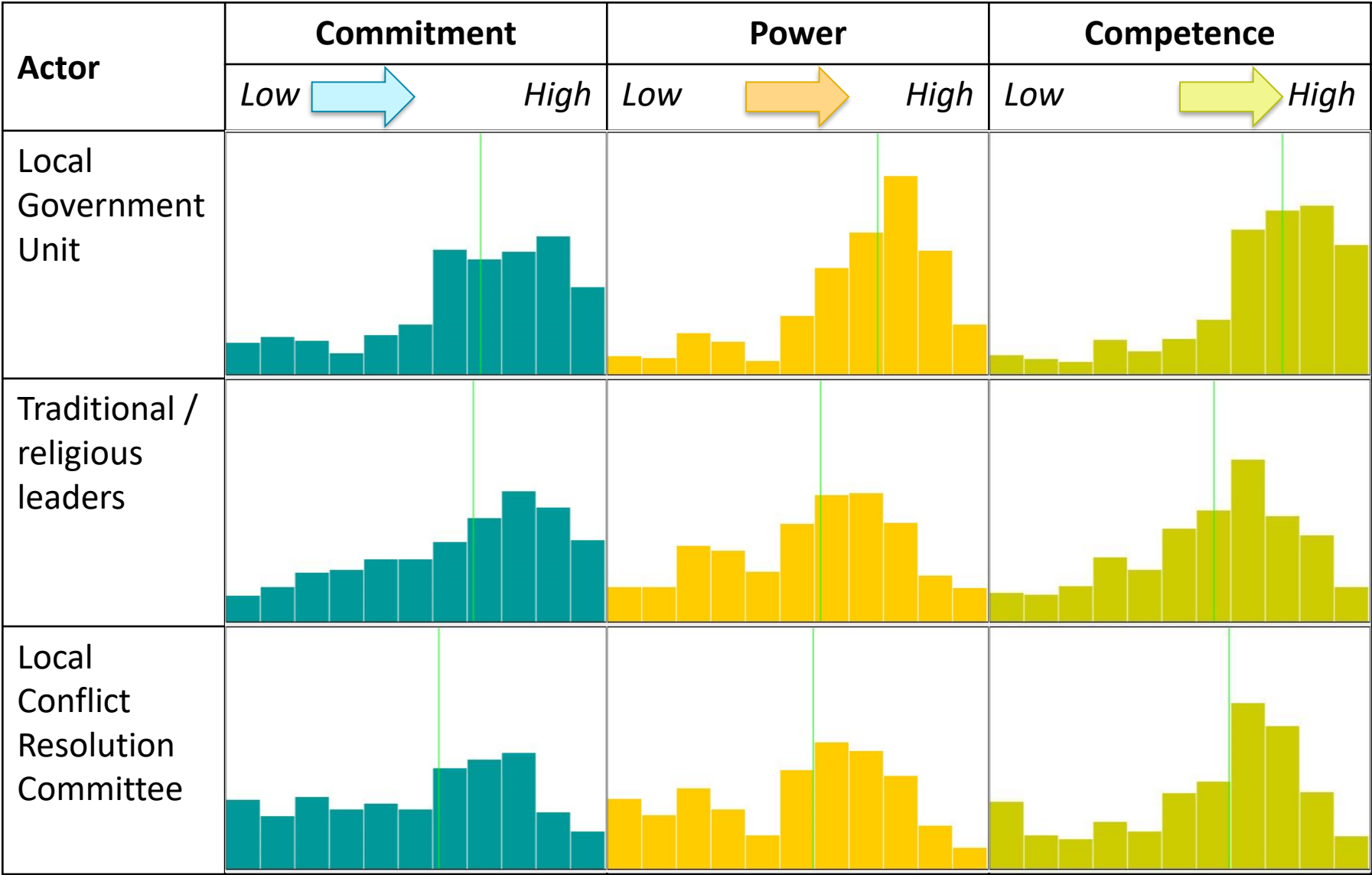
N = 837  
(all the sample)



# Change in the strategy focus from competence to commitment

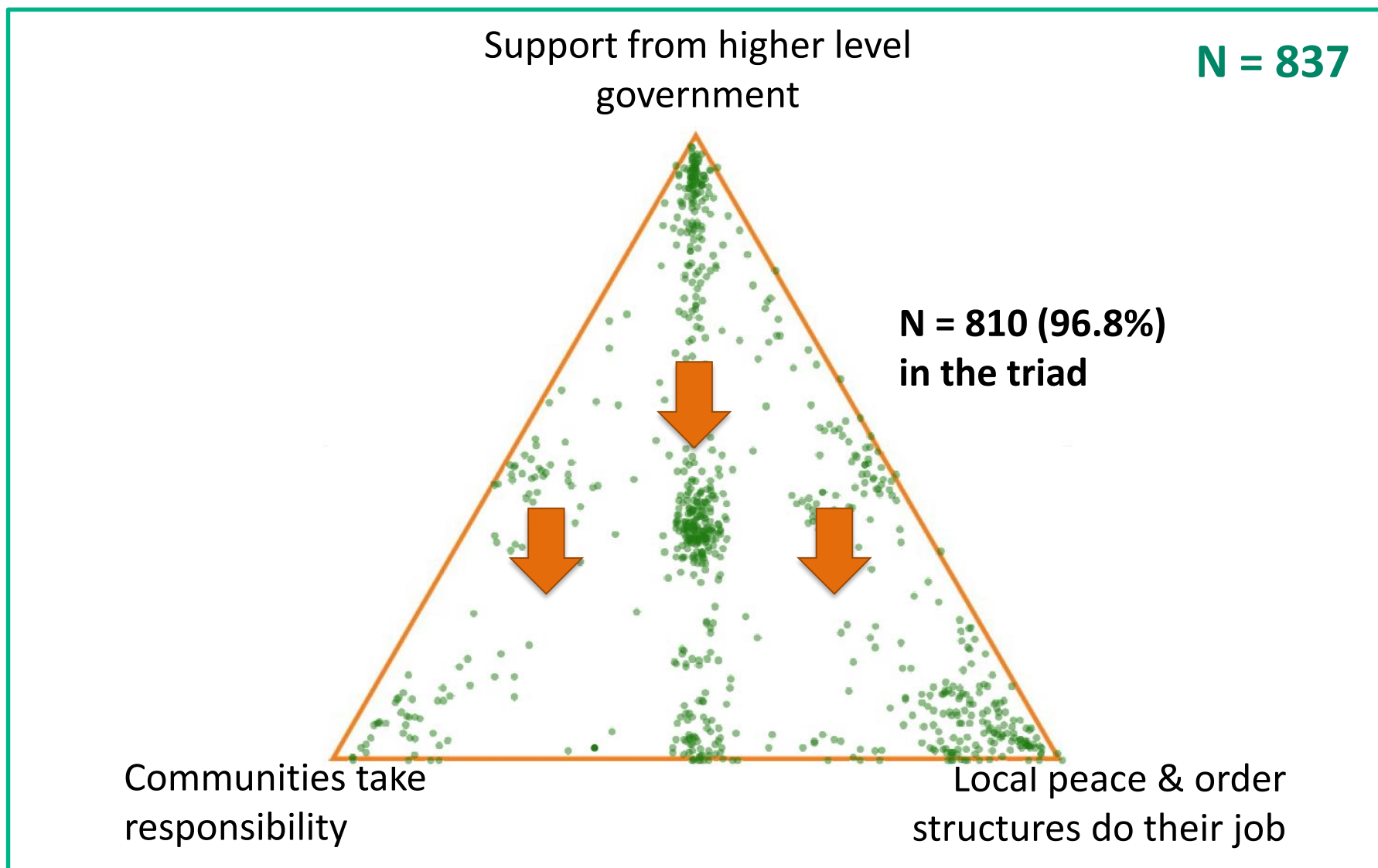
In your story, the commitment, power and competence of the following actors to change the situation was...

**N = 831**  
**(all the sample)**



# Reframing or refining indicators of success

In the context of your story, people's response to the situation was...





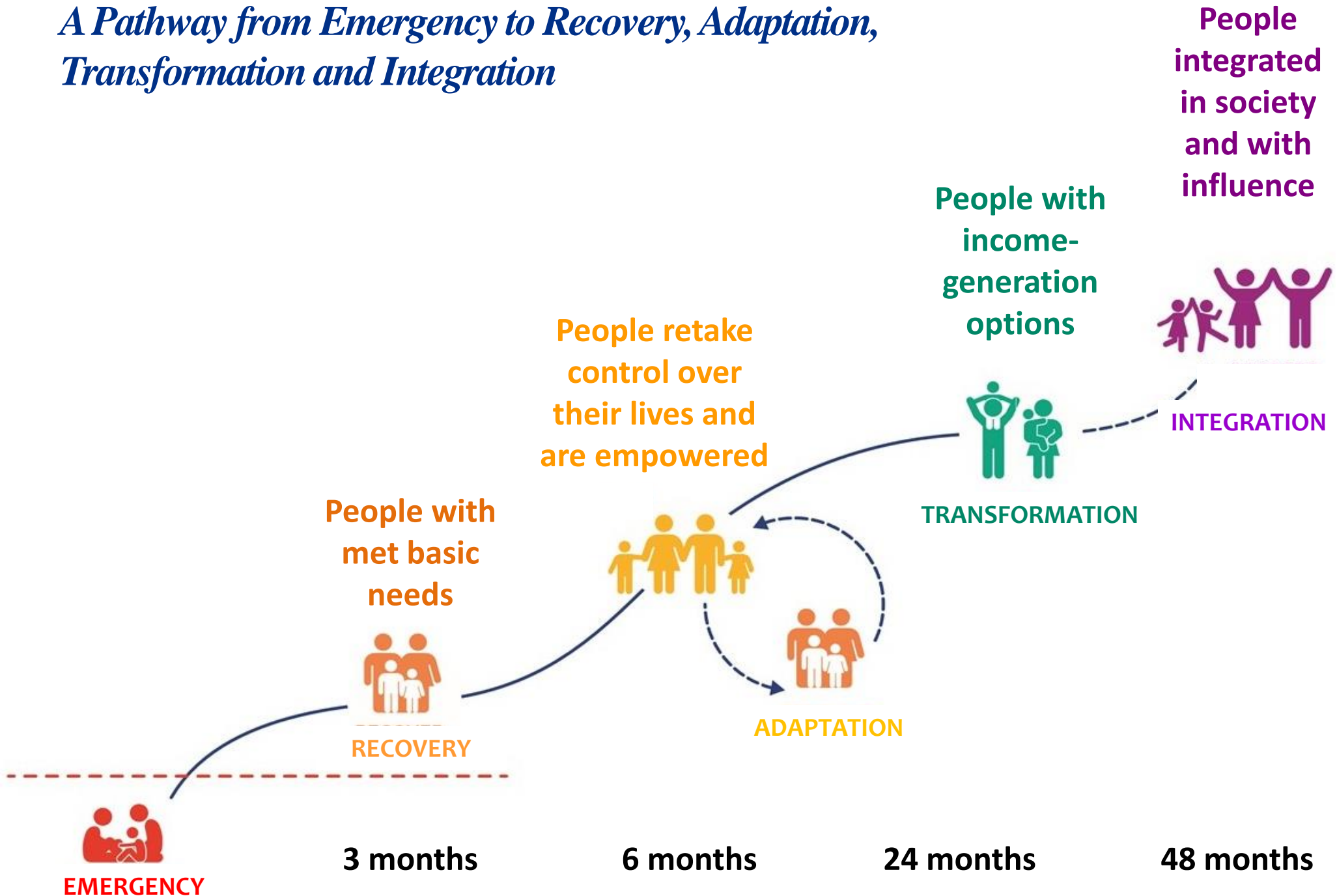
# Promoting sensemaking and adaptation to deal with complexity

- Improved the understanding of the different causes and nature of conflict in different localities to develop **refined and locally-tailored implementation strategies**:
  - **Shifting the focus of the intervention** from capacity development to promoting the commitment of communities and local actors.
  - Designing more **contextualized public safety plans**.
  - Sharing and analyzing findings with **youth groups** to design their **peace agenda**.



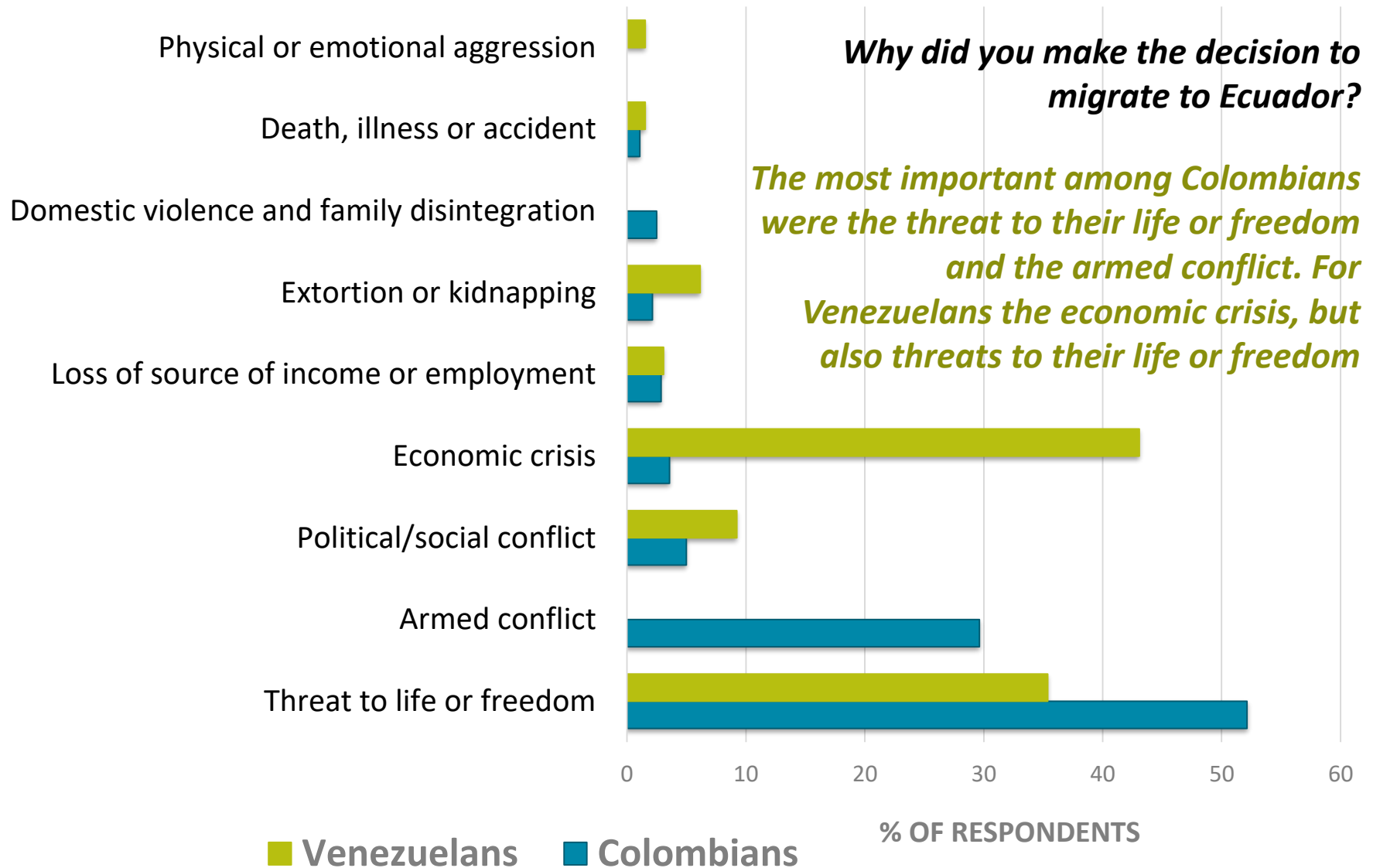
# Population, Refugees and Migration Project in Ecuador

*A Pathway from Emergency to Recovery, Adaptation, Transformation and Integration*



# Multiple events forced people to migrate

N = 342 (sub-sample of Colombians and Venezuelans)


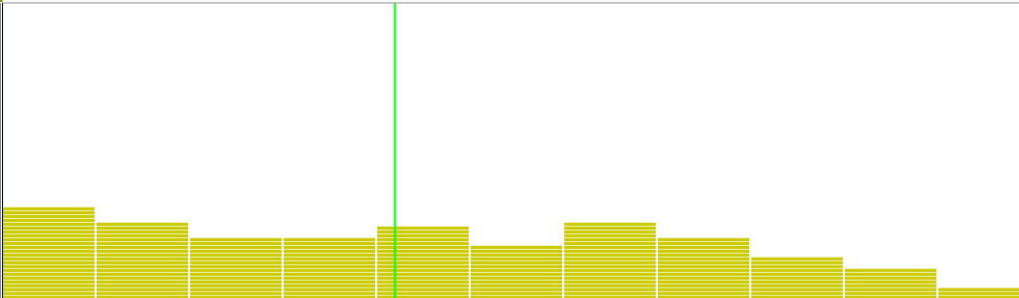
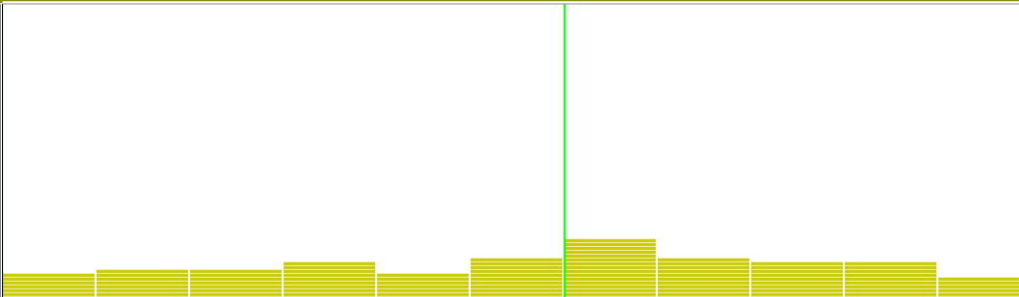




# Length of Support and Livelihoods

*As a result of the experience you have shared, your family current livelihoods allows you to...*

N = 484  
(all the sample)

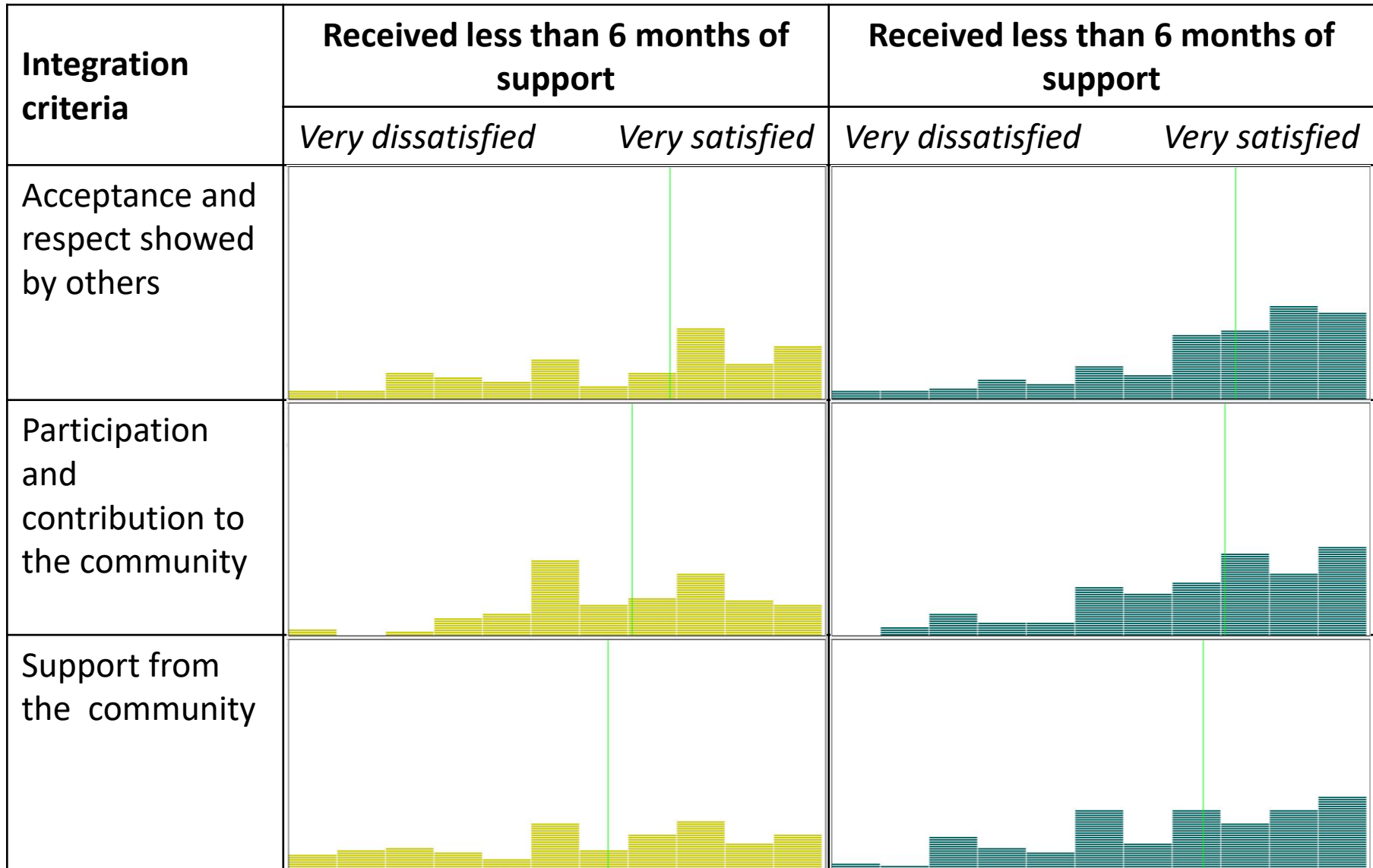
Length of project support received	%	Not even cover monthly basic expenditures	Save to achieve longer-term goals
Less than 6 months	43.2		
6 months to 2 years	35.3		
More than 2 years	21.5		

***Sustained support for at least 2 years is needed to provide refugees with opportunities for their social and economic integration.***

# Integration in Host Communities

Thinking on the experience you have shared, How do you feel now with respect to...

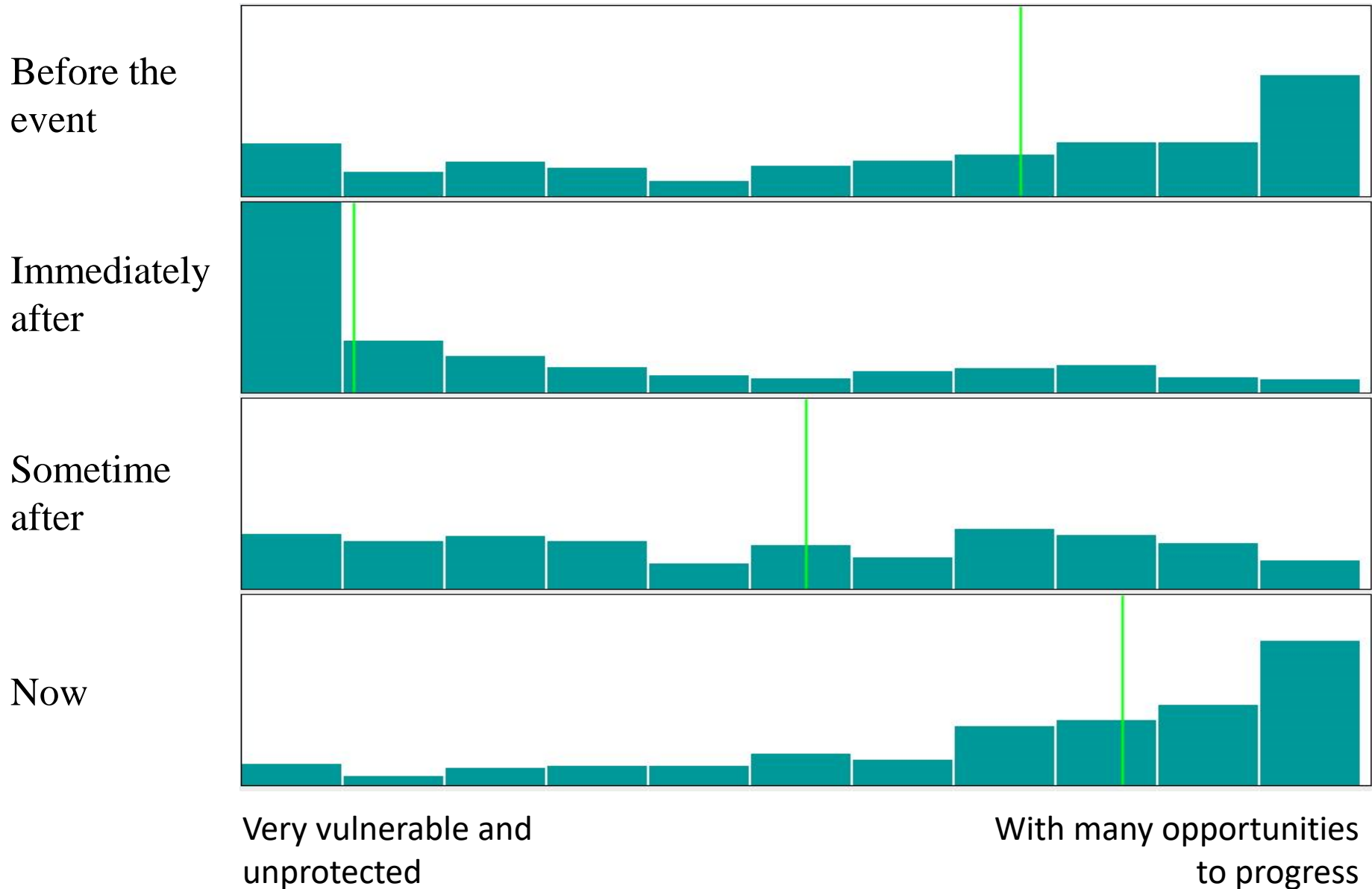
N = 342



# Pathways

N = 484 (all the sample)

*In the experience that you have shared, How did you feel in each of the following moments?*



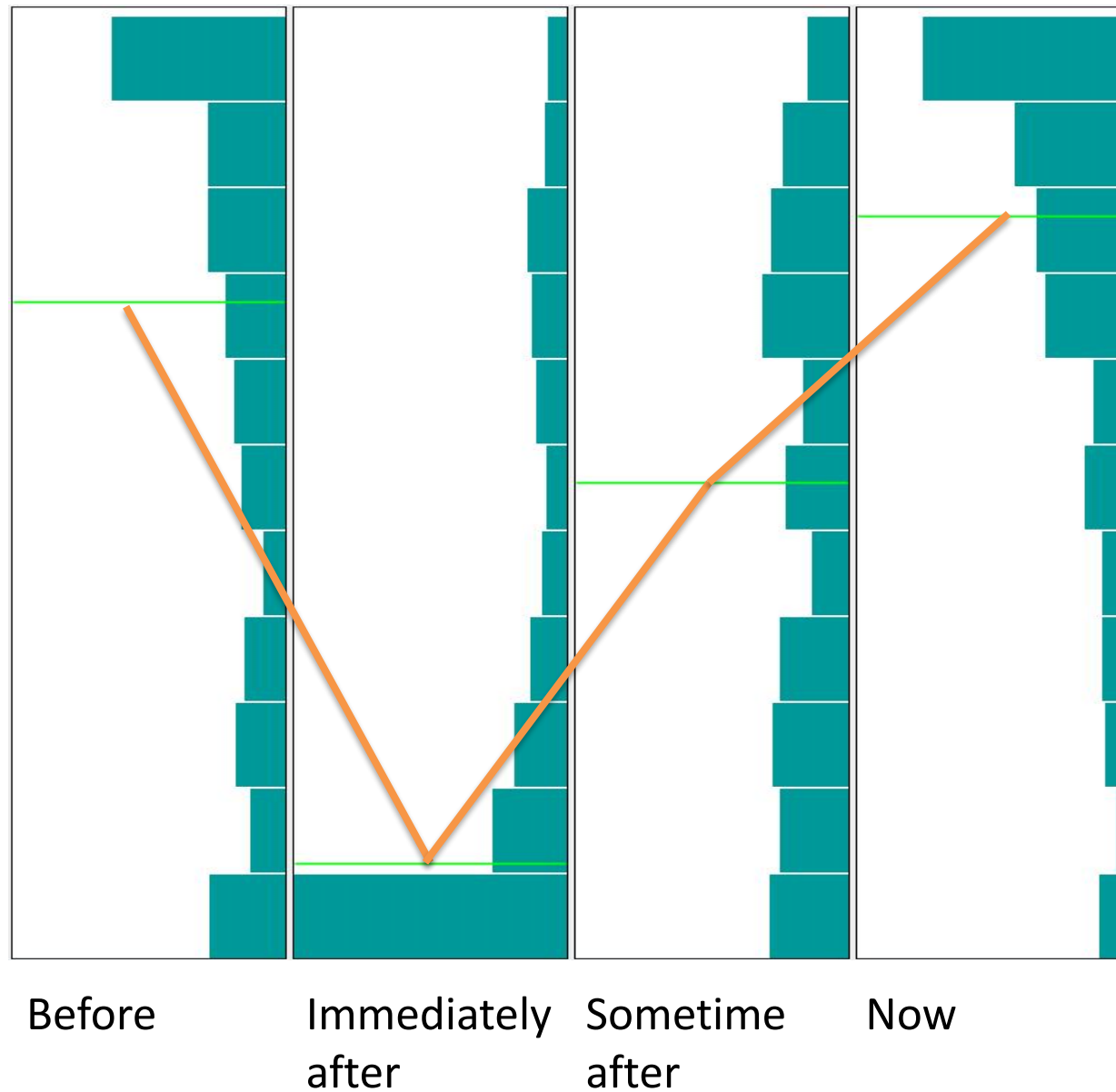


# The Pathway at the Median

N = 484 (all the sample)

With many opportunities to progress

Very vulnerable and unprotected



A steep fall

A resilient pathway at the median

N = 342 (sub-sample of Colombians and Venezuelans)

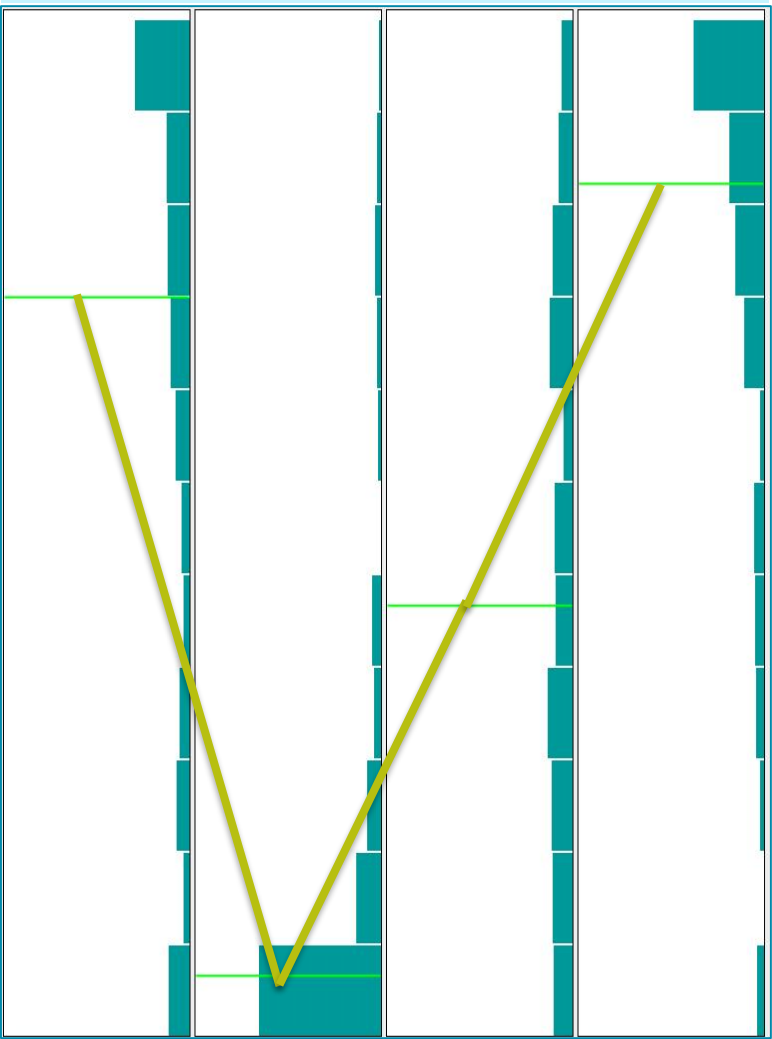
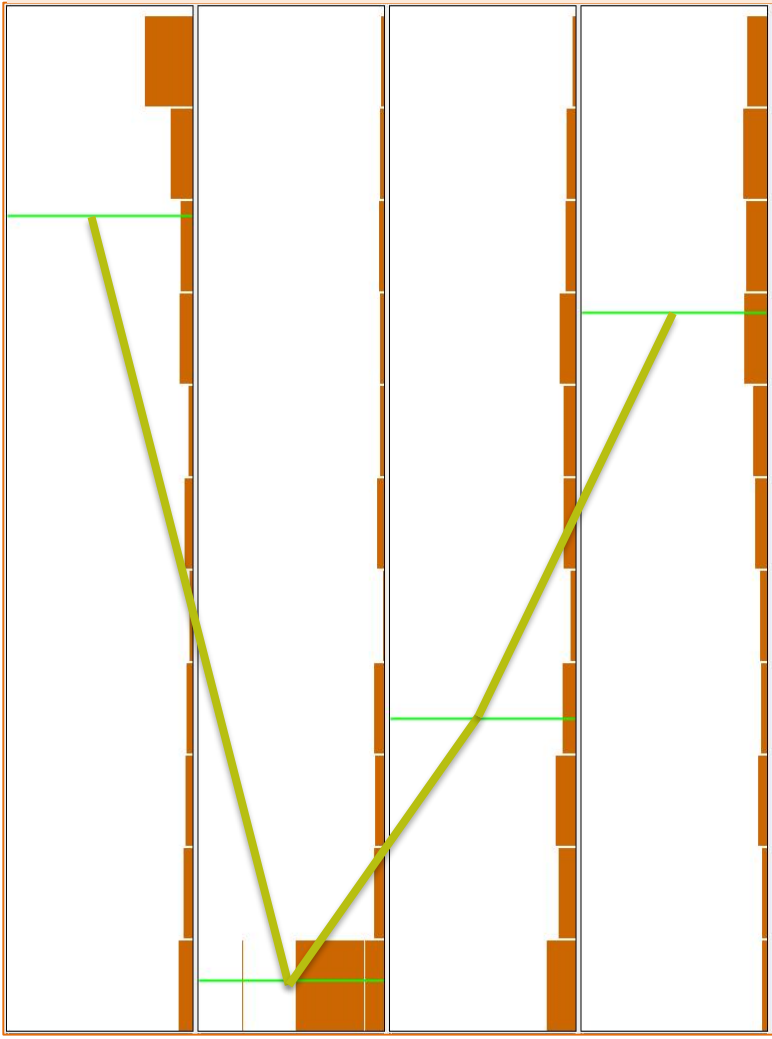
# People with shorter-term support rebounded worse

Received short-term humanitarian response (<6 months) N=145

Received longer-term support (6 months or more) N=197

With many opportunities to progress

Very vulnerable and unprotected



# Promoted learning and generated needed evidence

- **Humanitarian aid is a stepping stone** for recovery, adaptation and integration
- Significant changes requires a **longer-term approach to refugees support.**
- **Strengthening economic resilience**, through financial education, savings and complementary livelihoods support **is key for adaptation.**
- **Promoting social cohesion is transformative** for both host and refugee communities.
- **Refugees contribute to local economic development**, if given the appropriate support.





# Supports respondents' reflection on their experiences

**Exit questions showed that the process was friendly even for illiterate respondents and promoted respondents' reflection, building awareness and self-esteem. In some cases it was even seen as a healing process.**



*It helped me to reflect on the experience that I lived in a different manner.... Thanks so much for this exclusive workshop for myself.*

*This is the first time that I can talk about what happened to me... Thanks for giving me this opportunity and listening*

# The Method Matters

How we conduct evaluations in the context of peace, conflict, and human rights should consider quality while ensuring respect for human dignity

